

SACRED WHITE ELEPHANTS.

THE ROYAL BEASTS OF SIAM AND BURMAH.

How the Royal Captives are Housed and Cared For—Homes Paid to Them by the King and People.

Professor Henry A. Ward has given an interesting account of his visit to the Siamese king's treasures, as follows:

His five famous white elephants are in a long block of buildings at the rear of the arsenal. Each has an entire distinct stable appointed to its use, with the sleeping apartments of its score of grooms and feeders in one end. The stable is a large, high hall, with plain floor and walls, and at one end is a small seated Buddha image with little lamps burning in front. The great beast stands on a handsomely built pedestal, raised about a foot from the floor, with its top just large enough to hold him. On one side of this, near the front and rear, are two high, stout posts, gilded and otherwise gaudily ornate. To these the royal captive is chained with velvet-covered ropes by one fore and one hind leg. His keepers are very attentive, and constantly deal out to him dainty mouthfuls of bananas, pineapples, short sticks of sugar-cane and little bundles of sweet, fresh grass from a huge pile of these which is heaped near by. Every one of his wants is assiduously attended to; when he is seen to itch in any part of his body his royal hide is promptly scratched with a small iron rake-like instrument with a long handle; his eyes are reverently wiped and he has a cold sponge-bath every hour or two of day and night during the hot seasons. Over the door of each stable is a large richly ornamented sign of gold letters, giving the inmate's full regal name and title. This the guide reads to you in reverently hushed breath; indeed, these names, like that of the king, it is not proper for any Siamese to speak aloud. Time was when these beasts were duly worshipped by king and people; their stables were palaces; they were fed from golden dishes, and wore heavy gold rings upon their tusks and were fettered with golden chains. Even now the populace fall with their heads to the ground as they are led out richly caparisoned on state occasions, while the royal officers and even the king himself always make them obeisance in passing. The finder of a white elephant is loaded with honors and emoluments, taking his place at one step among the nobles of the kingdom. They come from the Laos territory far to the north and are brought down the river on rafts magnificently decked out, and accompanied by guards of honor and bands of music. At Aguthia, sixty miles up the river, they are met by the king with his entire royal retinue, who in the grandly adorned state barges follow the noble beast to its future home, with great parade and rejoicing.

The present lord white elephant in Mandalay, according to an accomplished writer on Burman affairs, is not attractive in appearance; he is very big, but notwithstanding the care taken of him he is remarkably lean and hollow sided. His tusks, however, are magnificent—white, smooth and curving forward in front of his trunk so that they almost meet. He is very bad tempered, and his attendants are much afraid of him. He has an establishment of thirty men to wait on him, among whom is a minister of state who manages his affairs and looks after the revenues of the province that is assigned to him to "eat," while within the inner stockade he has a "palace" to himself. On one occasion he killed a man who had ventured too near; and there was a good deal of trouble and noise before the body could be got away from him. The king—Theebau's father—heard the noise and inquired what was the matter. When he was told he expressed great concern, and not a little alarm for the future state of the lord white elephant, with the stain of murder on him blotting out hosts of previous good deeds. But the elephant's minister calmed his mind and restored him to equanimity by saying, "Pray do not be disturbed, Payah; it was not a man, only a foreigner." Probably because he is so vicious, the lord white elephant has never been ridden. No one but the king himself could do so; and his late majesty, Mindohn Min, was fat and feeble, and Theebau's nerves are not strong enough. The Sinyproo Dan is king of elephants, and therefore none but a king may mount him. His royal trappings are kept in the palace and are very magnificent. Bands of rich red cloth run from the headstall to the back and thence to the tail, hanging in curves over the body. They are richly studded with rubies and emeralds. On the forehead is a plate of gold recording his majesty's titles, such as is worn by every man of rank in the country, up to the arbiter of existence himself. Besses of pure gold and clusters of precious stones cover the headstall and golden tassels hang about the head. When he goes forth to take the air he is shaded by golden and white umbrellas. He and the king share all the white umbrellas in the country between them. The king of men has nine, the king of elephants has two, but he has also four golden ones. Not even the heir-apparent, when there is one, has a right to use the white umbrella. He has only eight golden ones, but the use of even an ordinary white-covered umbrella would be regarded as a declaration of rebellion on his part and would lead to his immediate execution. No wonder, then, that the attendants and visitors take off their shoes when they enter the Sinyproo Dan's palace, and that the people bow down low and do humble obeisance when he passes through the streets. The lord white elephant's suite account for his irritable temper by the bad treatment which he met with in

his early days. The royal coffers were low and the English were clamoring for the last installments of the Yandaboo indemnity money. So the rents of the elephant were appropriated to pay off the troublesome foreigners. Every care was taken to soften the indignity. The king himself wrote a long address on a palm-leaf requesting the lord white elephant not to take it amiss that his revenues were devoted to the payment of the barbarians. In any case he would not suffer, for the whole should be refunded in two months' time. The circumstances, however, seemed to have preyed on his mind, for the body-guard say that his majesty (the elephant) has never been the same since.

The Camphor Tree.

The tree which produces the best camphor is indigenous to Sumatra. The camphor tree propagates itself in the mountains of Sumatra, without trouble or labor to the natives, as it grows without any cultivation in the forests contiguous to the sea-coast, on the north side of the island. It is not found native to the south of the line, nor yet further than the third degree of latitude. European explorers have not as yet been able to find out the veritable name of the tree, that is, in any of the native languages; but there is no apparent reason to doubt that its propagation is completely confined to the two islands of Sumatra and Borneo. The camphor tree in girth and height equals the biggest timber tree, often arriving at the enormous size of over fifteen feet in circumference. The trunk is arboreal, and its bark is of a brownish tint. Its leaves grow on short petioles, the larger ones being alternate, the smaller opposite; they average from three to four inches in length and an inch broad. Their form is elliptic, ending in an extraordinarily long and slender point. The fibers are straight, and run parallel to each other.

Places where the camphor tree grows in abundance are generally considered unhealthy, the reason probably being the nature of the soil, and the peculiar conditions necessary for the prosperous state of that tree. The camphor of Sumatra is so much superior to that of Japan that the Chinese easily distinguish between the two, and reserve the former for their own use at an exorbitant price, and export the latter as a thing they do not think much of. The Sumatra camphor never by any chance reaches this country, because it is so much esteemed by the Chinese and other natives in the East that its price, compared to that of the Japanese article, is in the ratio of twenty to one, which may be attributed rather to the superstitious virtues imputed to it than to any intrinsic difference in its real value.

Camphor is procurable from the tree by two modes: the first by incising wounds in the bark, from whence it exudes; the second by help of fire. The drug procured by the first method is considered much superior in quality. The most noticeable difference in the qualities of the three kinds of camphor consists in their volatility. Japan camphor, procured by a process of boiling the wood, will volatilize completely away when exposed to the action of the air; but that procured naturally in Japan does in some measure lose its weight under the same circumstances; while it is asserted that the kind from Sumatra hardly diminishes at all in quantity by being kept. Camphor produces an oil which is a valuable medicine, and is much used by the natives of Sumatra for rheumatics, sprains and swellings.—*Bazar*.

HEALTH HINTS.

Blessed be he who invented sleep—but thrice blessed the man who will invent a cure for thinking.

It is stated by Dr. Foot's Health Monthly "that Dr. Thomas Taylor, of Washington, accuses flies of being carriers of contagion in the form of disease germs, and he thinks he has facts to prove it."

The London *Lancet* thinks that if children would wear woolen next the skin, and wear longer clothing, suspending it from the shoulders, they would wear more of boisterous health and less of backaches and pains.

A correspondent in Smyrna, Turkey, sends the following cure for lumbago, and states that it is reliable: Take a piece of oilskin cloth, such as we use to cover tables, but of a soft, pliant kind, sufficiently large to cover the loins; place it over the flannel shirt and bandage yourself with a flannel bandage; profuse perspiration will ensue on the loins, and you are quickly rid of this wearisome complaint.—*Scientific American*.

A Deaf and Dumb Lawyer.

A Washington letter says: One of the most remarkable displays of the triumph of brain and will over circumstances is embodied in the form of J. G. Parkinson, who has been admitted to practice in the United States supreme court. This gentleman, who is a fine-looking, dark complexioned, well formed brunette of about thirty, is deaf and dumb. He can hear only talk sign system. Still he is one of the best patent lawyers in Washington, and is noted as an expert in all branches of patent law. He comes originally from Cincinnati, and was once a clerk in the patent office. Now he has a lucrative law practice which he carries on by means of writing and signs. He is well known here both in the courts and in the interior department, and is in fact one of the wonders of Washington.

The telescope seems to bring distant friends near you; the advertisement really puts you into communication with them.

MEN DRINKING HOT BLOOD.

A STRANGE MORNING SCENE AT A NEW YORK ABATTOIR.

The Killing of the Bulls, and the Eagerness of Ladies and Gentlemen to Secure Slugs of Hot Blood.

A New York *Journal* reporter visited a large abattoir in that city to witness the operation of slaughtering, and to glean some facts concerning the cannibalistic tastes of a civilized people. It was hardly 7 o'clock in the morning, and a slight shower was falling. A coupe and two coaches waited outside, and the reporter asked one of the drivers whether purchasers of beaves came thus early to lay in their stock, to which he replied: "I don't know nothing 'bout that. I brings a lady, an' I don't think she buys much beef."

Passing through a wide wagon-way, paved with large cobblestones, the floor being on a slant, the reporter soon came upon a small group, composed of five women and eight men. Three of the former and one of the men had arrived in coaches. As this group stood there in the early morning, each with a glass, a mug or tin cup, looking anxiously toward the east in the direction of the slaughtering pens, they were hungry for blood.

Presently a fine young bullock was brought into the pen and the gate was closed behind him. Two men, by a dexterous movement, slipped the noose of two ropes around the bullock's hind legs, and in another instant he dangled in mid-air, head downward. A butcher, blood-begrimed from head to foot, wearing a huge hat and heavy boots, with his trousers tucked inside, entered the pen armed with a knife, the foot-long blade of which glistened in the gas-light. He waited a moment until the animal ceased to beat in the air with his forelegs, and then hastily cut down a small portion of the skin at the neck and severed the arteries, when a crimson tide flowed from the incision.

At the sight of the life blood of the now dying bullock the eyes of all present glistened with an eagerness to get the first cup. The blood-suckers (for that is what the butchers call them) are not permitted inside the pen, but boys working about the premises make it a point to be on hand every morning when the killing is in progress, and they take the receptacles and hold them under the fountain of blood until full, returning them to their respective owners. One gentleman after draining his mug had it refilled and offered it to the reporter, who, after a little battle with himself, tasted the fluid. It was not bad, and he drank the entire contents of the mug. The taste was not much unlike fresh-milked lactical fluid sweetened. In fact, it tasted so superior to what had been imagined that there need be no surprise at the remarkable growth of the habit.

After the departure of the customers the reporter asked the foreman whether he had many every morning. "Yes, that is a small lot. When we don't have more than a dozen blood-thirsty ladies and gentlemen here it is a poor day. Some days there are as many as thirty."

"Do the same persons come often?"

"Well, as a rule, they are patients who are sent here by their doctors. Some try it once, get disgusted and never come again. Others come a few times and think they are cured of consumption or something else and stay away; but there are some who come regularly every day or every second day for months at a time, and although there is seemingly nothing the matter with them, the appetite for blood has so grown on them that they can't stay away."

"How much blood can your oldest customers drink at one time?"

"Generally they confine themselves to one glass or mug, but we have one lady who comes every alternate day. She insists on having three full bumpers, while that old man you saw here drinks two of his cupfuls every day."

"What are the complaints that are treated by imbibing blood?"

"The majority who come here are consumptives, while there are a number of rheumatics, cases of protracted fevers leaving impoverishment of the blood, and some extremely aged people, requiring an infusion of new life."

"Do you charge them anything for the blood they drink?"

"Nary a red. We are only too glad to give it to them, so long as they don't annoy us or interfere in our work. The boys who get the blood for them and wash their mugs generally get a few cents from the rich, but they are not permitted to demand anything."

"Do many wealthy persons seek this kind of medicine?"

"The greater portion of them are well-to-do, and some days there are at least a dozen conveyances outside waiting until their occupants have had their morning drink."

A Small Boy's Composition.

A "young idea," of this city, says it bores him awfully to write compositions, and he always writes them short. We have obtained a copy of his last, which is no less distinguished for wit than for brevity.

THE FLY AND THE HORNET.

The Fly is a domestic animal, he is generally found near the molasses can. The fly is a harmless animal, not being furnished with as good weapons of defense as the Hornet. They that fly drink. I have never seen flies that were worse off for liquors, but I have seen liquors worse off for flies. The Hornet is a red-hot child of nature. He is always ready for action at any time of the day or night. My advice is to keep clear of the Hornet, as he is too sociable.—*Frankfort (Ky.) Yeoman*.

A sign-board can't tell everything. It takes an advertisement to do that.

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A. V. BROWN, Photographer

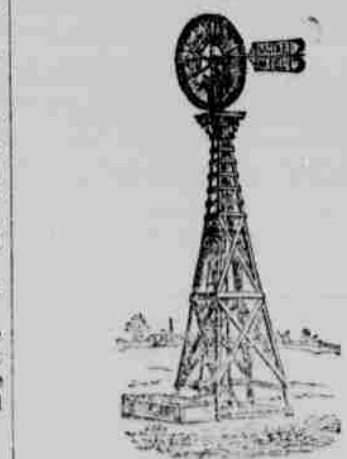
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Effectually cleanses the nasal passages of Catarrh, virus, causing healthy secretions, allays inflammation, protects the membrane from additional colds, completely heals the sores and restores the sense of taste and smell. Beneficial results are realized by a few applications. A thorough treatment will cure Catarrh, Hay Fever, etc. Unequaled for colds in the head. Agreeable to use. Apply by the little finger into the nostrils. Will deliver by mail, 50c. a package—postage stamps. Sold by wholesale and retail druggists. ELY'S CREAM BALM CO., Owego, N. Y.

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